

PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base

March 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 3



439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

"SURGE"

Such a small five letter word, but what a big impact it has on all of us. In true Patriot Wing fashion with the memory of Desert Shield/ Desert Storm operations only 12 years old, we have responded. We have assumed 24-hour operations on a shoestring and have been able to meet the flow of deploying C-5 aircraft with extra hours on your part and the help of volunteer augmenters from Lackland AFB, Texas, and other AFRC locations.

Commentary

The beginning has been very tough because of the changing concept of operations and the weather. What was supposed to be short ground stop "gas-n-go's" turned out to be many crew resting C-5's with deploying Marine, Army and Navy troops needing a place to stay and a hot meal. I believe the highlight so far has been the Friday night after a major New England snowstorm when we took care of 291 deploying troops and five aircrews that could not leave.

All portions of the wing have stepped up to include the USO, AAFES, and the Westover Club staff who have run themselves ragged feeding everyone coming through here at all hours of the day and night. If you haven't seen the aerial port operation in Hangar 3, you need to stop by and admire how this base goes all out to treat the troops passing through.

As predicted a couple of months ago, this is our home game. We are knocking their socks off despite the uncertainties and shortage of resources. These are being compensated for by your efforts. Webster defines surge as: "To move in a heavy, violent, swelling manner in or as if on waves." I'm sure that's what these first weeks have seemed like to many. Your efforts impressed Lt. Gen. John R. Baker, the AMC vice commander, when he visited us on Feb. 8 and they continue to impress the troops that pass through here.

I still run into a generation of people that fondly remember the legacy of Westover treatment upon their return from Desert Shield/ Desert Storm. Today you are creating the legacy for a new generation that will fondly remember Westover as their last stop before leaving the states in support of Enduring Freedom.

Thanks for all you do!

by Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick
439th Airlift Wing commander



Secretary Roche explains new tool to communicate vision

by James G. Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

The current strategic environment offers a dynamic array of asymmetric threats, evolving partnerships and challenges, and dramatic advances in defense technology. New conditions demand America's Air Force continually assess itself and adjust as appropriate in order to sustain the competitive edge of air and space power. As we evolve, accurate, timely, and clear communication with all airmen is essential to educate as well as build awareness of, and support for our service. In this spirit, and complementary to the Chief of Staff's Sight Picture, I introduce the "Secretary's Vector" to share my perspectives on major issues relating to our service's direction.

Air and Space Core Competencies

The Air Force has made tremendous strides in realizing the vision of early airmen and exploiting the potential of each medium in which we operate. Yet, we recognize there is an array of capabilities as yet undiscovered, and a need to test and evolve basic tenets against new realities and conditions. Just as our operational concepts and systems continually advance, so must the way in which we articulate our Air Force competencies.

The history of the Air Force reveals fundamental competencies that are at the core of our ability to develop and deliver air and space power. These unique institutional qualities set the Air Force apart from the other services and every other military force in the world. By identifying and keeping these competencies foremost in our vision, we can more effec-

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Cover photo

WELCOME TO WESTOVER –
Arriving soldiers of the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Fort Bliss, Texas, look forward to putting away their gear and enjoying the amenities in Hangar 3 on a stopover to Southwest Asia (see article and additional photos on page 3).

—photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco

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Westover bridges airlift effort to Southwest Asia

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Once again, Westover stands at the critical junction of an air bridge across the Atlantic.

Troops in desert camouflage, equipment-laden C-5s on the runway and the "controlled chaos" of aerial port and passenger terminal operations in Hangar 3 testify that Westover is again the closest U.S. point to an overseas crisis. A long anticipated message from Air Mobility Command came on the first weekend of February. The surge of aircraft was starting, the wing was told.

Within hours, the first C-5s landed here and Westover began moving troops and equipment to back up the national will in the Persian Gulf area of responsibility.

Twenty-four hour operations to accommodate troops and service aircraft started with teams of volunteers. At the tip of the spear was the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron, augmented by 58th aerial porters. Westover's maintainers worked around-the-clock in 12-hour shifts with the help of 433rd Airlift Wing volunteers from Lackland AFB. Services volunteers were on duty at all hours to feed passengers and prepare flight meals.

"An air bridge operation is a tremendous job for everyone involved. To be a success, everyone has to pitch in together. That's what is happening here. People know that what they are doing is important. Everyone is coming together," said Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander.

AMC planners at the command's headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill. are channeling the armada of aircraft through Westover. AMC also coordinates aerial refueling over the Atlantic with Air National Guard tankers from Pease ANGB, N.H. and Bangor IAP, Maine.

Ideally, planes arrive at Westover spaced out at intervals and are on the ground for four hours for a "gas and go," including maintenance inspection and refueling.

The schedule can go awry for any number of reasons. Bad weather here or at the destination, missing a tanker over the Atlantic, a delay in diplomatic clearance for an over flight or maintenance delay can stack up planes at Westover.

A Friday night New England snowstorm resulted in about six C-5s on the ground, with troops from all the services in the passenger termi-



Marines from California play cards before the next leg of their journey.

photos by MSgt. W.C. Pope

nal or provided rooms by billeting. "If there is a weather or traffic problem over the Atlantic or their destination is 'MOged' (maximum aircraft on the ground), C-5s can be diverted here, causing more havoc with the schedule. They can be 150 miles over the Atlantic and return here within 30 minutes of the time we get the divert message," said Lt. Col. James P. Carey, 42nd APS commander. His aerial porters are everywhere, from ATOC to augmenting transportation as volunteer bus drivers.

"Our people continually step up to the plate and do whatever is necessary to get the job done," he said.

One example is the 439th Services Squadron. "Services came to us on Monday morning and asked what we needed. We gave them a wish list. By Wednesday everything was all set up and running," said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42nd APS ATOC superintendent.

In the hangar are tents, cots, tables and a lounge with TVs, VCR tapes, video games and telephones. Services, with the help of reservists from other bases, offers midnight meals and boxed flight meals at all hours.

During the Gulf War, the Patriot Wing set the standard for hospitality towards tens of thousands of troops deploying and returning from the AOR. The current operation builds on that experience. The 439th Communications Squadron donated computers to e-mail messages home. The Family Support Center donated modems and paid for internet services and donated books, magazines, audio books and writing materials. Troops received calling cards through the VFW's Operation Uplink.

Civilian employees across base pitched in to help. The Base Exchange set up a mini-exchange in which desert camouflage pillows unexpectedly became a fad item among troops who scooped them off the shelves. Protestant chaplain Capt. William S. Wiecher walked among the troops offering another kind of support to young men and women going into the unknown. For those who feel a need to talk in private, the chaplain has set aside a quiet area.

The centerpiece of the welcome are the volunteers of the Pioneer Valley USO. "Coming through the door, they met us with snacks. This has been a great help to us. We get everything we need," said SSgt. Corey Foy from Fort Bragg, N.C.

Cookies, pastries, fruit, unlimited USO coffee, a friendly person to talk to and a hug for departing troops add up to a touch of home. "They're my family. That's why I'm here," said USO volunteer Marilyn Spofford of Granby. She was in the hangar with her husband, Air Force retiree Bob Spofford, greeting troops, as they have since Desert Shield.

Spofford snapped Polaroids of Marine LCpl. Chris Jara of Houston who was horseplaying in the first snow he had ever seen in his life. Soon every laughing Marine wanted their picture taken in the New England snow. Just a day earlier they had arrived tired after two and a half days on the road.

During the early days of the surge, the duty of a last assistance to the troops fell to Chaplain Wiecher. After the good cheer and refreshments, he reminded them of the awesome seriousness of their deployment. Standing at the front of a bus next to a C-5 he invited soldiers to bow their heads and join him in a prayer that they be granted the courage and protection for whatever they must face at their destination.



Marine Cpl. Matthew M. Gorab picks out some food in the mini-shopette set up by the AAFES staff in Hangar 3.

Security forces help guard CENTCOM headquarters

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

A beach-filled trip wasn't on the minds of 11 439th Security Forces Squadron members recently activated and deployed to MacDill AFB, Fla. Instead, the Westover reservists' mission was to help protect the headquarters of U.S. Central Command, the unified command whose area of responsibility is the Middle East.

In late September, the 439th SFS members packed their bags and headed south to help backfill MacDill's 6th Security Forces Squadron, which had many members deployed overseas in support of contingency operations.

The importance of the mission hit home for SrA. Elliott Moya, who has been activated and deployed for large part of his year and a half in the Reserves.

Moya, whose first day of security forces technical school was Sept. 11, 2001, said the terrorist attacks on the United States taught him that he has to be ready for anything. "I've learned a lot about military operations from this current assignment and how CENTCOM plays such an important role with our current world situation," he said.

SrA. Shawn P. Lyman shares that sentiment and said he feels the deployment to MacDill was worthwhile for him personally. "I feel that I am serving a purpose here at MacDill," the five-year cop said. "Without the reservists' help the 6th SFS would be undermanned and wouldn't be able to complete their mission."

"Absolutely," said Maj. Lynden P. Skinner, commander of the 6th SFS. "There is no way we could accomplish the mission without all of our (air reserve component) forces. Thanks for all you do every day," he said.

However, the Westover reservists also benefited from the situation, said TSgt. Edward J.



photo by SSgt. Cala Kelly

ARMED TO THE TEETH - SSgt. Christopher S. Dion, 439th Security Forces Squadron, trains with a military working dog at MacDill AFB, Fla. Dion is one of 11 Westover reservists deployed to the Florida base.

Majersky, a combat arms instructor. "The training that we received here has been for real world situations," he said adding that many of the instructors had significant experience with deployments. "For the first time since I was activated I feel that I am finally doing something to support the mission."

One reason for feeling like they made a

difference was perhaps their proximity to Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of U.S. CENTCOM. Tasked in part with providing security for some of the general officers, Westover reservists had a unique, up close experience working near the man who would lead any military action in the Middle East.

Meeting the general was SSgt. David E. Hammond's most memorable experience. "He is a very nice man who likes to hit you as he walks by," joked the Westover reservist who's served more than eight years in the military.

Another memorable experience was watching the military premier in Tampa of "Analyze That," starring Robert DeNiro and Billy Crystal. Both DeNiro and Crystal attended the premier along with actor Kevin Spacey.

SSgt. Christopher S. Dion, another 439th SFS member deployed to MacDill, said members chosen to work at the base must have successfully completed specialized and refresher training in USAF security procedures, rank recognition of all U.S. branches, military customs and courtesies, foreign rank and cultural familiarization, and security issues.

"These members of the 439th assigned to the 6th are scheduled to remain on the elite security force for the length of their assignment to MacDill," Dion said. The reservists are scheduled to return to Massachusetts in the late summer.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dion devoted hours to collecting information from his fellow squadron members during their temporary duty assignment. He provided questionnaires to the reservists who wrote about their roles at the Florida base.



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

General Baker visits Westover

Lt. Col. Jay C. Milkey, 337th Airlift Squadron, briefs Lt. Gen. John R. Baker, Air Mobility Command vice commander, in the scheduling office of the squadron. The general stopped at Westover on Feb. 8 and also visited Hangar 3, the security police building, answered questions at the conference center, and ate lunch with squadron commanders. Baker then headed further north into New England and stopped at Pease ANGB, N.H., and Bangor IAP, Maine, for visits with the Air National Guard refueling wings assigned to those installations.

Services provide key information for activated reservists

by Maj. James Bishop
459th AW Public Affairs
Andrews AFB, Md., and 439th AW staff

It's happened. You've been called to active duty. Now all the planning pays off. Personal and family readiness will give you the peace of mind to do your job while away.

Most people know about the basic benefits of activation, such as pay, full commissary use, and health care. Below is a quick reference for answers to questions many activated reservists have. For a more complete guide to preparing for mobilization, see the Family Readiness pamphlet, "Mission Readiness."

Family Support

Leave things as stable as possible at home. Most family members feel some sense of anger or loss at separation. It's not fun, but it's normal. The best thing to do is deal with the feelings. Communicate. Other things that have worked include working out a family budget with the new pay scale, drawing up a chart for household chores, and making sure routine maintenance is done before you leave.

You may want to plan a going-away event, so you can leave with warm memories. The Family Support Program offers information, assistance, and support for your loved ones while you are away. They can connect your spouse with experts who will assist them one on one or in a workshop with financial management, job search, parenting, stress management, child care relief (if you're activated), and much more. Call the 439th AW Family Support at Ext. 3024.

Job Rights

Two basic rights granted to you by Federal law are the right to deploy and the right to return to your job. Your employer must let you report to your military station when you receive orders. You cannot be forced to take personal or sick leave while performing military duty. You should communicate with your employer about when you have to report, and how long your orders are for. Give them a point of contact number, and let them know if your situation changes.

If you have any problems on the employer end, call the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representative at Westover, MSgt. Rick Gheen at Ext. 3127.

For additional info, visit www.esgr.org, or call national ESGR headquarters at (800) 336-4590. (If you're employed in a small business, let your employer know that some aid programs are available to small businesses suffering a loss from a call-up. Information is available at www.sba.gov/reservists or 800-U

ASKSBA.)

Financial Help

As an activated reservist, you are eligible for emergency aid from the Air Force Aid Society for such things as basic living needs, car repairs, childcare problems, serious illness or death of an immediate family member, and other problems associated with an activation. To contact the ADAS, call the base family support center, or visit www.afas.org. Last year the AFAS helped more than 20,000 Air Force members and their families with some \$26 million in assistance. If you need it, help is there. Other helpful offices include the nearest base chaplain's office (Westover's chaplain's office at Ext. 3030, the USO, or visit www.roa.org for information on organizations that help the military), the American Red Cross (877-272-7337 or visit www.redcross.org), and social services—most are listed in the local phone book.

Deployment Guide

For a wealth of information for the reservist and families on preparing for deployment, deploying, and returning from a deployment, see the Deployment Guide, available from the 439th AW Family Support Office at the number above. The Deployment Guide is available electronically on the Wing Home Page.

Medical Benefits

All active-duty service members are authorized to use military medical treatment facilities and are enrolled in TRICARE Prime health care plan. Families of service members are covered through one of three TRICARE options. These options will be explained to you in your in-briefing, or you can visit www.tricare.osd.mil or call (888) 363-2273 for TRICARE information.

Pay

For information regarding pay and travel entitlements, call the FM office at Ext. 3880, 2833, 2044, or 2129. You can access the Defense Finance website at www.dfas.mil, and you can sign up for a pin to let you access your leave and earning statement online at www.dfas.mil/mypay/.

ID Cards/Emergency Information

Your family members must have ID cards and be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to receive medical and other benefits. Call customer ser-

vice at Ext. 3430.

Legal

For wills, powers of attorney, and special powers of attorney, call the base Legal Office at Ext. 3513 during the week. On UTAs, reservists may call Ext. 3180. You'll also be given another chance to review or accomplish your essential forms when you report to the 439th. Your legal benefits extend to twice your activated time, so if you were activated for one year, you are eligible to use active duty legal services for two years. See www.jagcnet.army.mil/legal for a helpful military legal website.

Useful Web Sites

-Veterans Administration Assistance Office offers medical, compensation, re-employment, insurance and home loan benefits — 800-827-1000 or www.va.gov.

-Air Force Reserve Command — <https://www.afrcmil.af.mil>. Note the red "Hot" button for mobilization guidance. This site can only be reached from a military computer.

-Air Force Crossroads — www.afcrossroads.com.

-United Services Organization — www.uso.org.

-Armed Forces Vacation Club — www.afvclub.com.

Reservists can update emergency cards on web

Westover reservists are reminded to update their emergency data information via the Air Force's new Web-based emergency data card.

The new web-based system, called the Virtual Record of Emergency Data, or vRED, provides Westover's casualty notification teams with information needed to contact family members if an airman suffers a serious injury or illness, or dies. The vRED replaces the Department of Defense's Form 93.

To access vRED, log on to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and enter the Virtual Military Personnel Flight link, or vMPF. While there, the vMPF will guide the reservist through the process. For more information, contact the Customer Service section at Ext. 3430.

Mission:

The 439th Airlift Wing is capable of providing worldwide air movement of troops, supplies, equipment and medical patients. Airlift also involves airdrop and combat off-load operations. Support units provide communications, engineering, logistical, medical and security requirements.

The wing's peacetime mission includes recruiting, training and supervision of personnel to assure mission readiness. The wing is also responsible for the management of aircraft maintenance and all assigned Air Force combat support real property, equipment and supplies.

439th Airlift Wing

A combined workforce of more than 4,000 people make up the 439th AW at Westover, the nation's largest Air Force Reserve Command base. The men and women of the wing, who comprise active-duty, reserve, federal, and non-appropriated fund personnel, share a common goal: to keep the 16 C-5A Galaxies flying. The giant airlifters routinely fly around the globe carrying troops, supplies, and medical patients at a moment's notice. The C-5 aircraft at the base are worth more than \$1 billion. The following vignettes tell the story, in brief, of how the Air Force Reserve units at Westover do their jobs.

439th AW Headquarters

The 439th Wing Headquarters section comprises 77 military and 33 civilian people. They provide support in the Command Section, Command Post, Chaplain's section, Historian, Inspector General, Judge Advocate General, Military Equal Employment Opportunity, Public Affairs, Safety, Center for Performance Planning, Finance, Plans, and Recruiting Services.

439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron

The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron is one of 23 similar units in the Air Force Reserve Command. The 169-member squadron has a wartime mobility mission to deploy as a personnel package to an area of responsibility where pre-positioned assets have been located.

ASTS typically conducts operations in tents near the flight line or in other "buildings of opportunity" such as an aircraft hangar. The primary duty of the ASTS is to staff a 250-bed medical/surgical/psychiatric facility. After receiving patients from either the local contingency hospital or a mobile aeromedical staging facility (MASF), ASTS personnel provide on-going patient care prior to loading casualties onto specially configured aircraft which then transport the patients to the next level of care through the aeromedical evacuation system.

439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

The peacetime mission of the 439th AMDS is to provide medical and support services to the 439th AW by conducting Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessments (RCPHA), occupational physicals, dental exams, immunizations, drug testing, shop visits, and various first aid kits. The squadron maintains 17 medical career fields to perform its diverse function, and includes 85 military and two civilian workers.

The 439th AMDS is a "generation" medical squadron that would generate in place during a wartime scenario and provide sick call, limited treatment and TRICARE case management in addition to their peacetime activities. They would do this under the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) of an Air Base Clinic (ABC). If Westover were to become a staging base, squadron personnel would also be sent to other CONUS medical facilities to backfill positions vacated by mobilized active duty personnel.

439th Operations Group

The 771 people assigned to the 439th OG provide airlift, aeromedical, and operational support. They accomplish airlift missions

Unit Roundup: What

such as aid to victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, presidential support cargo, carrying Sikorsky helicopters, and transporting the 109-foot fuselage of an RB-47 Stratojet from Westover to an Air Force museum at Hill AFB, Utah.

439th Operations Support Squadron

The 86 military and civilian OSS members provide airfield and air traffic operations, weather, mission planning, scheduling, combat tactics, training, intelligence, and aircrew life support. The base operations staff oversees the safe and orderly flow of all aircraft through Westover. There were more than 40,000 military aircraft landings and departures on the base's runways in 2002.

Combat tactics staff members cover route threats, terrain information, flight altitudes, terrain masking, and tactical arrivals and departures, among other topics. Mission planning and scheduling is accomplished in the current operations section. The staff arranges for everything from getting the aircraft fueled and serviced at remote locations and making sure the crew is billeted to getting diplomatic clearance to land in or overfly all countries that require it.

Intelligence, one of the two OSS functions set to deploy, provides awareness of threats and culture and provides mission-relevant intelligence updates from around the world. Aircrew life support is the other function that deploys. The members provide aircrews with protective gear, survival and rescue gear, and train members on usage.

337th Airlift Squadron

Since October 1987, 337th aircrews have flown the C-5A, the largest aircraft in the United States and second largest in the world, anywhere it is needed across the globe. Aircrews fly 50-60 missions per quarter, putting in about 120 days per year, compared with the Air Force reservist's annual average of 58 days. The 202-person squadron includes pilots, who normally fly a combined 1,000 hours per quarter; flight engineers, who monitor, operate and control aircraft systems; loadmasters, who get the cargo safely on board, and administrative personnel.

During 2002, the activated squadron flew more than 9,300 hours on scores of overseas missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and many other high-profile tasks. That amounted to 226 percent of a normal year's flying hours.

439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

In wartime, the 132 members of the 439th AES handle patients close to the front lines. The unit is tasked with two mobile aeromedical staging facilities (MASF), which are tents set up in bare-base areas, such as a dirt airstrip. They receive patients from a MASH unit and provide medical care for normally two to four hours, when they are airlifted by a C-130 for further treatment. In addition, the squadron has four AE liaison teams, two squadron headquarters, one AE coordination center, an AE advon team, and two AE support cells.

AES members coordinate all patient airlift requirements, functioning like an ambulance dispatch by securing transportation for patients to medical facilities both in and out of country. The squadron also provides medical aircrews if necessary. In addition, the squadron provides personnel to coordinate the command and control function for all AE medical assets in the theater of operation. The 439th AES is one of only three AES Reserve units with such comprehensive responsibilities.

439th Airlift Control Flight

The 19-member ALCF unit, when deployed, functions as a headquarters element, coordinating every aspect of the flying mission. They provide on-site command and control. The unit pulls together

We Do At Westover

expertise in airfield operations, communication, administration, aircraft loading, and maintenance. Once deployed, ALCF members oversee other support functions such as aerial port, security police, services, and fire protection. To support a mission, the ALCF members monitor all flights going through their location, coordinate all cargo movements, departures and maintenance coordination. The unit may be deployed to a fully operational base, or a "bare bones" base with all but a runway and a tent. The ALCF also trains 12 sister units in the northeastern United States in how to package their personnel and equipment for airlift.

439th Mission Support Group

Nearly 1,000 military and civilian employees of the 439th MSG provide support services for some 4,000 people that comprise the 439th Airlift Wing. Support is also provided to nearly 1,000 more people in the 15 tenant organizations at Westover ARB. The support group, staffed by five military and 14 civilian employees, provides all functions required to manage and support all base infrastructures. This includes civil engineers, civilian and military personnel, security forces, aerial port, communications, morale, welfare and recreation; base readiness, bioenvironmental engineering, and Griffin Services (a civilian contractor that provides services on base).

439th Mission Support Squadron

Forty-five reservists and 19 civilian employees of MSS administer support services to the wing. The military personnel flight services hundreds of people per week, from issuing ID cards to in-processing and out-processing members. The education office administers professional military and college-level testing, and coordinates in-residence professional military education and training.

Career enhancement assists with every aspect of military careers, from medals to promotions. Family Readiness administers programs from help with finances, to preparing a military member's family to cope with a deployment. Westover is also one of four bases in the Air Force Reserve Command to have a casualty assistance office.

439th Communications Squadron

The 40 military and 35 civilian members oversee thousands of phones, computers, network switches and hubs in every one of the base buildings. The squadron maintains hundreds of e-mail accounts. The squadron also operates the photo lab and maintains all of the meteorological and navigation equipment on base, as well as 850 miles of underground fiber optic cable. Two mobility teams provide 24-hour support in the field, and the squadron also provides augmentation during contingencies.

439th Civil Engineer Squadron

CES members could be tasked with anything from building a base and runway at a remote site to fixing a stuck door. The squadron includes 152 military and 99 civilian employees. CES is made up of electricians, linemen, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, welders, plumbers, fuel specialists, surveyors, firefighters, readiness experts, power production workers, and even entomologists – to take care of insect problems.

439th Security Forces Squadron

The 145 military and 24 civilian members of SFS provide air base ground defense at Westover and abroad. The squadron's job is to provide installation and airfield security and law enforcement. This ranges from protecting the base gate around the clock to controlling access to restricted areas and responding to any base emergency. SFS members work with state and local police to arrest and prosecute offenders apprehended

on base property.

The squadron also includes special security teams ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 48 hours. These teams include a command control element trained to lead consolidated base defense. The combat arms section provides all weapons training for Westover's reservists and qualifies thousands annually on a variety of weapons. The unit also routinely augments active duty forces and provides security for Aerospace Expeditionary Force taskings. SFS members have been on active duty since October 2001 in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons

More than 330 reservists keep the cargo moving at Westover ARB. They are the members of the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons. Each squadron is tasked worldwide. Every year, sites around the world – from Japan and Italy to Germany and England – submit requirements and aerial porters deploy to help fill shortfalls.

The two squadrons share Hangar 3. The aerial porters are responsible for safely and strategically packing and placing cargo, operating K-loaders and forklifts in the ramp section, handling special or hazardous materials, and assisting passengers. An air terminal operations center (ATOC) assumes command and control for all the aerial port sections working on the flight line.

439th Maintenance Group

The maintenance group includes 20 military and two civilian employees. Together they supply, transport, fix, plan, budget and assure the quality of base functions. The military functions within the maintenance group include the 439th Logistics Support Squadron, the 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 439th Maintenance Squadron.

Westover reservists have earned the reputation for being among the finest and most knowledgeable C-5 maintainers in the Air Force. Aircrews from other C-5 bases often divert to Westover for "quick turn" repairs on their aircraft before they depart on missions across the globe.

439th Logistics Support Squadron

This squadron handles transportation, base supply, and staff functions that include programs and mobility, plans and scheduling, and budget and training. One hundred-four military and 11 civilian personnel comprise LSS.

439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Three hundred-four AGS reservists are the in-depth first responders to a C-5 aircraft maintenance problem. The squadron is split into four fully-equipped teams: Bandit 6 and 7 (the blue teams) and Raider 6 and 7 (the red teams). Each team maintains four C-5 aircraft. Two people from AMXS pack their toolboxes and go with many of the C-5s that leave Westover to troubleshoot and fix problems. In addition to managing the maintenance group's mobility program, the squadron operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week to recover, inspect, fuel, de-ice, wash, launch, and maintain each C-5A on the Westover flight line and while deployed to remote stations.

439th Maintenance Squadron

MXS performs the regular back-shop maintenance and tackles the tough problems. The 301 reservists and two civilian employees also handle the major teardown inspection of each C-5A about every 400 days. MXS comprises 15 separate work centers such as machine and welding, non-destructive inspection (aircraft parts are x-rayed for detection of cracks); sheet metal (workers replace any of the huge C-5A's panels that number about 1,000); propulsion, repair and reclamation, aerospace ground equipment, fuel systems, electro-environmental, survival, guidance and control, structural maintenance, and pneudraulics shops.

Medical squadron provides smallpox immunizations

by 2nd Lt. Stacey Balicki
and SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The staff of the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron will give members a "What you need to know about the smallpox vaccine" trifold prior to his or her receiving the vaccine.

"This trifold goes over everything listed in this article and it has some additional information regarding the vaccine," said 2nd Lt. Stacey L. Balicki, 439th AMDS clinical nurse and smallpox project officer for Westover.

Those who receive this vaccination and who follow the guidelines that have been established by the CDC and DOD for the smallpox program, face a very rare possibility of transmitting the disease to others.

"Reservists need to know about the smallpox vaccine so that they themselves can become educators...to their families, coworkers, and friends," Balicki said.

"We plan to ensure that all members receive appropriate education prior to receiving this vaccine. Personnel should start discussing this program with their families. This will help determine if they have any medical conditions that would make them exempt. Before the vaccination, members will fill out a pre-assessment questionnaire.

This questionnaire not only asks questions about the member but also about their families. Members should talk with their employers as well and find out if their company, business or office has any policies regarding the employee getting the smallpox vaccine.

Balicki, the first reservist at Westover to receive the smallpox vaccine, had very minor complaints about the after effects of the shot. "The lymph nodes in my arm became swollen and sore," she said. "I followed the site care guidelines that were given to me and washed my hands frequently. It is important that personnel look at the trifold to see what the immunization site is going to look like. The site looks different everyday. If you are unprepared for what it will look like it could alarm you."

Balicki said the most important objective of explaining the smallpox vaccination program is educating members and their families.

"We are doing this through unit briefings, pamphlets and smallpox information that is available in the clinic, on various websites and in the *Patriot*," she said.

Balicki provided the following answers to these questions about the smallpox vaccine.

1. Who will get the smallpox vaccine?

The AMDS staff will provide smallpox vaccinations in a staged approach for specific teams. The vaccinations will be expanded to include other groups as directives from higher headquarters dictate. Members of the Smallpox Medical Teams, vaccinator cadres, and other specified personnel will be vaccinated first.

Only those individuals without contraindications to a vaccination will receive their shots during the pre-outbreak vaccination program (contraindications are medical problems for those people who do not have personal or family medical exemptions).

However, in a smallpox outbreak (a confirmed case), even those with contraindications to vaccination should be re-evaluated and strongly

considered for vaccination if exposed to smallpox.

The stages include the following teams/personnel:

Stage 1a: first responders

Stage 1b: vaccinators

Stage 2: Deployed people in critical mission capabilities

Stage 3: Other U.S. forces and personnel, depending on circumstances.

2. When will the vaccines begin?

Vaccinations have begun for Stage 1a and 1b personnel. The 439th AMDS has identified medical personnel that will be vaccinators for the smallpox program. The vaccinator cadre has received the smallpox vaccine. Other stages will be vaccinated as directives dictate.

3. Where will the smallpox vaccinations be given?

The vaccinations will be given at the 439th AMDS medical facility located on Walker Avenue.

4. What is the most important thing to do after getting the shot to care for the vaccination site?

Don't touch the vaccination site...this is the best way to avoid spreading the virus. If you accidentally touch the vaccination site, **wash your hands immediately.**

Before members are vaccinated they will be educated on the proper care of the vaccination site. Instructions will be given to them on how they can avoid spreading the Vaccinia virus. Some key points to proper care are:

--Don't touch the vaccination site.

--If you touch it by accident, wash your hands right away.

--Don't let others touch your vaccination site or materials that touched it.

Keep the site dry. Airing will speed healing. Most vaccination sites can be left unbandaged especially when not in close contact with other persons. When in close contact with others, wear long sleeve shirts to keep the site covered. The site can be covered with an absorbent bandage to make a touch-resistant barrier. Dispose of bandages in a sealed or double plastic bags. You may carefully add a little bleach to the bag, if desired, to kill the virus.

Normal bathing can continue. Dry the vaccination site last, so the towel does not rub or spread the virus elsewhere. Don't allow others to use that towel until laundered.

Use a waterproof adhesive bandage if you exercise enough to cause sweat to drip. Avoid swimming and hot tubs. Launder clothing, towels, and sheets in hot water with detergent or bleach.

5. Is there any danger to family members after a member has gotten the shot?

Since Live Vaccinia virus is present at the vaccination site for about 14-21 days (until the scab falls off), Vaccinia virus could be transferred to other parts of the body or to other individuals in close personal contact with the person vaccinated. Care must be taken to avoid spreading the Vaccinia virus which could occur by touching the vaccination site and then touching other parts of the body and other

Helpful web sites

www.vaccines.army.mil

www.cdc.gov

www.smallpox.army.mil/media/pages/SPSafetySum.asp

people. When in contact with other persons, wearing clothing with sleeves covering the vaccination site and/or using a loose, porous bandage (e.g., standard Band-Aid, gauze with adhesive/tape around the edges) can reduce the chance for contact transfer until the vaccination scab falls off.

Frequent hand washing will further reduce the chance for transfer of the Vaccinia virus to contacts.

6. What does the smallpox vaccine consist of?

Smallpox vaccine, Dried Calf Lymph Type, Dryvax is a live-virus preparation of vaccinia virus prepared from calf lymph. The calf lymph is purified, concentrated and dried by lyophilization. During processing, polymyxin B sulfate, dihydrostreptomycin sulfate, chlortetracycline hydrochloride, and neomycin sulfate are added, and trace amounts of these antibiotics may be present in the final product.

DOD vaccination program aims to protect service members

by 2nd Lt. Lance Patterson
AFRC Public Affairs

ROBINS AFB, Ga. – For more than 3,000 years smallpox has sporadically appeared throughout the world in various forms and with little mercy.

Now, in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the U.S. government is launching a campaign to vaccinate as many as 10.5 million health and public safety personnel as a precaution against smallpox bioterrorism attacks.

Smallpox is caused by a virus called variola, which spreads from person to person through prolonged close contact. The disease can cause high fever, severe headaches and backaches, and a severe rash covering the entire body, which can leave permanent scars.

The Department of Defense has taken the lead on procuring vaccinations for service members, supporting the national smallpox preparedness plans announced by the president. Much like the civilian communities, DOD will immunize people in high-risk occupations, including smallpox teams and hospital/clinic workers.

The smallpox vaccine contains live vaccinia (not smallpox virus) to protect against smallpox. This same vaccine was given to millions of Americans, including service members, from World War I until the 1980s.

On Dec. 13, President Bush received a smallpox vaccination, fulfilling a promise he made when he ordered inoculations for about half a million troops.

"As commander in chief, I do not believe I can ask others to accept this risk unless I am willing to do the same," Bush said.

The resumption of a smallpox vaccination program is intended to ensure the military can perform its missions in case smallpox is used as a bioweapon.

"The DOD is establishing a smallpox vaccination program to protect the health and safety of our military personnel," said William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Smallpox is a serious infectious disease."

China is generally credited with developing variolation, an early form of smallpox inoculation, in the 11th century. The process involved taking the pus from the pocks of someone suffering from the virus and inoculating healthy people with it. A mild case of smallpox developed, but the process granted lifelong immunity afterwards. The practice would eventually spread to Europe and the New World by the 18th century, but not until the disease had wreaked havoc throughout the world.

The following timeline gives an overview of the suffering that has occurred because of this dreaded disease:

180 - The Roman Empire is devastated

by the Plague of Antonine, which kills millions.

570 - Bishop Marius of Avenches names the virus, variola; a derivation of the Latin word for 'stained.'

910 - Rhazes, a Persian physician, writes the first medical description of smallpox.



1520 - Two years after Spanish conquistadors arrive in Mexico, the Aztec emperor Cuhtlahuac dies of smallpox. Over the next century of Spanish occupation, Mexico's population diminishes from an estimated high of 15 to 20 million in 1518 to 1.6 million by 1620. The decimation is repeated throughout the New World as Europeans unknowingly introduce smallpox.

1700s - Smallpox kills four reigning European monarchs including Tsar Peter II of Russia and King Louis XV of France. Other notable victims include the king of Ethiopia and a Japanese emperor. By the last decades of the 18th century an estimated 400,000 Europeans die of smallpox each year.

1754-1767 - Smallpox is used as a weapon when British forces distribute blankets used by smallpox patients to Native American tribes during the French-Indian war.

1774 - Benjamin Jesty, a farmer from the town of Dorset in the United Kingdom, inoculates his family with material taken from the udders of cows that had cowpox, a virus simi-

lar to smallpox. Medical reports begin to appear linking smallpox immunity in those individuals with a previous case of cowpox.

1796 - Edward Jenner, a British surgeon, injects the fluid extracted from a pustule of cowpox victim into a healthy child. Eventually, the word vaccine, derived from the medical name of cowpox, 'variola vaccinae,' falls into common usage.

1801 - President Thomas Jefferson creates the National Vaccine Institute.

1803 - Spain begins the first overseas vaccination program when it sends the vaccination to North and South America.

1967 - The World Health Organization launches the global vaccination campaign against smallpox.

1972 - Routine smallpox vaccination among the American public ends.

1976 - The last person to contract the disease naturally is a hospital cook in Somalia in October.

1977 - Somalia reports the last naturally occurring case of smallpox.

1978 - A laboratory accident in Birmingham, England, infects a female medical photographer, who then infects her parents.

1980 - The World Health Organization recommends that all countries cease vaccination and that all laboratories destroy their stocks of smallpox or transfer them to the Institute of Virus Preparations in Moscow, Russia, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga. All countries report compliance, but the Soviet Union begins to develop smallpox as a bioweapon.

1982 - Vaccine production is discontinued in the United States.

1984 - Routine military smallpox vaccinations were limited to recruits entering basic training.

1990 - U.S. military discontinues routine vaccinations.

Today - Smallpox vaccinations are generally limited to selected lab workers and military personnel.

There are two forms of variola virus. The less potent virus kills fewer than 1 percent of cases and the more virulent form has a death rate of about 30 percent. A recent review of sporadic outbreaks in industrialized countries since World War II estimated the mortality rate at 22 percent.

Protection from the vaccine usually lasts five to 10 years and 95 percent of people will develop a mild infection indicating full immunity against smallpox. The voluntary program announced by the government excludes pregnant women, AIDS patients, people with transplanted organs, anyone on immunosuppressive drugs or chemotherapy, and anyone with a current or past history of eczema, atopic dermatitis or shingles. (AFRC News Service)

continued from page 2

tively advance these unique capabilities, as well as the ultimate effects we provide to the nation. The Air Force continually nurtures these areas of expertise, making us the preeminent air and space force in the world. Previously, we distilled these into six distinctive capabilities which we referred to as our "core competencies" - Air and Space Superiority, Global Attack, Rapid Global Mobility, Precision Engagement, Information Superiority, and Agile Combat Support.

1) Developing Airmen: The heart of combat capability

The ultimate source of combat capability resides in the men and women of the Air Force. The value of strategy, technology, and organization are diminished without professional airmen to leverage their attributes. Our Total Force of Active, Guard, Reserve, and Civilian personnel are our largest investment and most critical asset. They are airmen - steeped in an expeditionary ethos. Therefore, from the moment they step into the Air Force, we are dedicated to ensuring they receive the education, training, and professional development necessary to provide a quality edge second to none. The full spectrum capabilities of our service stem from the collective abilities of our personnel; and the abilities of our people stem from a career-long focus on the development of professional airmen.

2) Technology-to-warfighting: The tools of combat capability

The vision of airmen fundamentally altered the way in which we approach military operations. As a leader in the military application of air, space, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technology, the Air Force is committed to innovation to guide research, development, and fielding of unsurpassed capabilities. Just as the advent of

powered flight revolutionized joint warfighting, recent advances in low observable technologies, space-based systems, manipulation of information, precision, and small, smart weapons offer no less dramatic advantages for combatant commanders. The Air Force nurtures and promotes its ability to translate our technology into operational capability - to prevail in conflict and avert technological surprise.

3) Integrating Operations: Maximizing combat capabilities

Effectively integrating the diverse capabilities found in all four service branches remains pivotal to successful joint warfighting. Innovative operational concepts and the efficient integration of all military systems - air, land, maritime, space, and information - ensures maximum flexibility in the delivery of desired effects across the spectrum of conflict. The Air Force contributes to this enduring objective as each element of air and space power brings unique and essential capabilities to the joint force. Our innate ability to envision, experiment, and ultimately, execute the union of a myriad of platforms and people into a greater, synergistic whole is the key to maximizing these capabilities. Yet, effective integration involves more than smart technology investment - it also requires investigation of efficient joint and service organization, and innovative operational thinking. Thus, continued investment in our people to foster critical analysis and intellectual flexibility is equally important to our technology development.

Our proficiency in these three air and space core competencies underpin our ability to contribute to joint warfighting, producing effects across the spectrum of conflict. Our continued focus on and nurturing of these core competencies will enable us to remain the world's greatest air and space force.

Guest of honor



photo by MSgt. W.C.Pope

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander, was the guest of honor at a dinner with the Polish American Congress of Western Massachusetts on Feb. 8. The dinner was held at the Pope John Paul II Social Center in Holyoke.

Daily shuttle now available on base

Route: Base Hangar/Base Ops (Bldg 7087 & 7091)
Proceed down Hangar Avenue - stop as needed
Backside of Supply (Bldg 5375)
Bowling Alley (Bldg 5402)
Consolidated Club (Bldg 6640)

Return Route - Bus will complete route every 15 minutes during posted meal hours at Westover Club and dining facility (see page 12).

For more information, call Ext. 2186

Information helps called-up reservists understand their rights in private sector

WASHINGTON - In mid-January, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao unveiled updated information to help reservists preparing to be deployed understand their rights to pension and health benefits coverage available through private sector employers.

"Military reservists should have confidence that while they are serving their country on active duty their job pension and health benefits will continue for their families," Chao said. "That is why we have developed information to familiarize reservists and family members with the federal law that protects these benefits."

"Many troops will be called to serve. This represents a great sacrifice by reservists, guardsmen and employers who must carry on without the services of these valuable employees during our fight against terrorism and to preserve the freedom cherished by Americans."

"Frequently Asked Questions for Reservists Being Called to Active Duty" provides basic information about how retirement benefits of reservists are protected during service to their country. It also describes the rights of family members to maintain health coverage, including the right to keep coverage under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, as well as the various health benefit options available to family members.

A copy of the questions and answers can be obtained on the department's web site at www.dol.gov/pwba. The public also may call PWBA's toll-free employee and employer hotline at (866) 275-7922 or electronically at www.askpwba.dol.gov (Air Force Reserve Command News Service from a DOL news release).

Patriot People

Name: Jameson A. Borden
Rank: SrA.
Age: 22
Address: Mechanicville, N.Y.
Unit: 439th LSS
Position: Vehicle operator
Civilian position: School
Favorite food: Prime rib
Years of service: Two
Favorite sport: Baseball
Favorite hobby: Playing guitar
Ideal vacation: Going to Australia
Best way to relax: Watch TV
Preferred entertainment: Going to concerts
Favorite hero: My father
Favorite music: Heavy metal
Favorite movie: Scarface
Favorite aircraft: F-22 Raptor
Pet peeve: Stuck-up people
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Spend every penny



photo by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

SrA. Jameson A. Borden

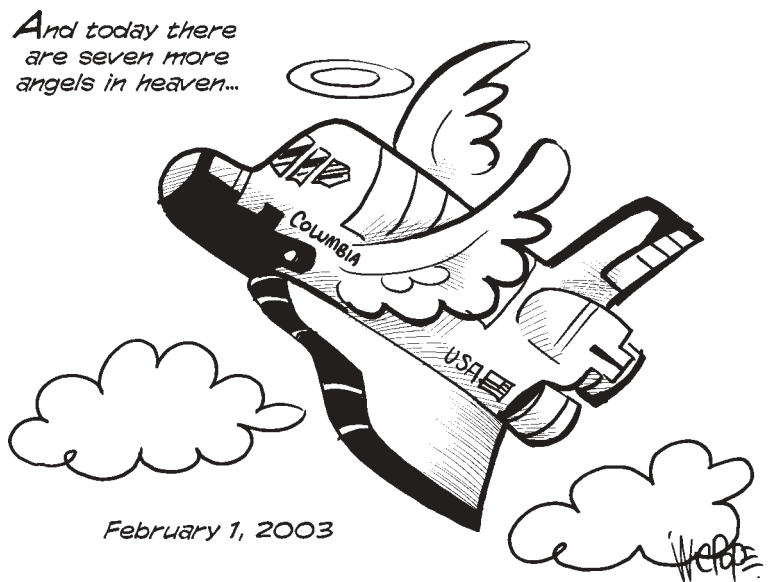
Patriot Praises

Enlistments:

SMSgt. Herens, Michael L.	TSgt. Goodwin, Michael J.
SMSgt. Stone, George D.	TSgt. Gosselin, David M.
MSgt. Bounanducci, Ronald J.	TSgt. Griffin, James Michael
MSgt. Bourgeois, Marc A.	TSgt. Lankarge, Michael E.
MSgt. Briggs, Laurie A.	TSgt. Manley, Shawn A.
MSgt. Butler, Stephen P.	TSgt. Martineau, Shawn P.
MSgt. Culhane, Timothy E.	TSgt. Moseley, Brice E.
MSgt. Culpepper, Teresa I.	TSgt. Muller, Robert F.
MSgt. Dawson, Kelly E.	TSgt. Page, Richard H., III
MSgt. Desmarais, Douglas A.	TSgt. Palaia, William M.
MSgt. Flynn, James M.	TSgt. Patterson, CareyAnn M.
MSgt. Guerin, Michael	TSgt. Purcaro, Michael N.
MSgt. King, Steven C.	TSgt. Rivet, Dawn M.
MSgt. Mulcahy, Colin C.	TSgt. Robinson, Kenneth J.
MSgt. Perreault, Elaine J.	TSgt. Smith, Gregory P.
MSgt. Sjogren, Jean Claude	TSgt. St. Louis, Lori L.
MSgt. White, Jesse K.	TSgt. Sullivan, Alexander F.
MSgt. Williams, Frederick P.	TSgt. Toledo, Aurea I.
TSgt. Barnes, James K., II	SSgt. Anderson, Michael J.
TSgt. Beaudry, Keith M.	SSgt. Baker, Matthew B.
TSgt. Boudreau, Kurt J.	SSgt. Bray, Martin A.
TSgt. Breslin, Christopher D.	SSgt. Briere, Ronnie P.
TSgt. Brodmerkle, Warren M.	SSgt. Busenbark, Kenneth A.
TSgt. Card, Timothy M.	SSgt. Carlin, Charles F., III
TSgt. Carey, Paul J.	SSgt. Chio, Ernest D. H.
TSgt. Davison, Delton C., Jr.	SSgt. Deyo, Kevin P.
TSgt. Fydenkevez, James J.	SSgt. Ferguson, Sean E.
TSgt. Gagne, Eugene A.	SSgt. Hans, Thomas J.
TSgt. Gerhardt, Clifford R.	SSgt. Karol, Jason F.

SSgt. Kibe, David C.
 SSgt. Klein, Chad M.
 SSgt. Mercado, Wanda Y.
 SSgt. Pernisi, Alicia M.
 SSgt. Shameklis, Brian J.
 SSgt. Shepard, John Allen
 SSgt. Sisco, Gerald R., Jr.
 SSgt. Taylor, Scott M.
 SSgt. Wilbur, Jeremiah C.
 SrA. Ash, Jonathan R.
 SrA. Beaulieu, Christopher J.
 SrA. Bounanducci, Paul R.

SrA. Donahue, Jesse J.
 SrA. Fazzone, Lishelle
 SrA. Gilbert, Jeffrey A.
 SrA. Keokoummame, Banlang
 SrA. Lamountain, Andrea B.
 SrA. Lochard, Rolf R.
 SrA. Lowery, Leon
 SrA. Warren, Daniel C.
 SrA. Wood, Casandra A.
 A1C Johnson, Elizabeth D.
 Amn. Forselius, Jason Duane



February 1, 2003

The 439th AW Honor Guard needs you! For more information, contact MSgt. Thomas Roe at Ext. 3342.

Wing sets Employer Appreciation Day for June 26

By Gordon A. Newell

An Employer Appreciation Day is scheduled for June 26 if mission requirements allow.

Reservists are encouraged to invite their primary employer to visit the base and participate in an orientation flight.

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th Airlift Wing, feels it is an especially meaningful time for employers to learn what their workers do when they take time off to be at Westover.

"Continued employer outreach has always been critical to the success of our mission at Westover and never more than today," he said. I implore you to take the time to nominate your boss today."

Employers should be at the Westover club by 9:30 a.m. for coffee and refreshments. They

will be taken to the flight line at approximately 10:30 for an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A. After the flight (which will last about one and one-half hours) employers will be guest of the wing commander for lunch at the club.

If reservists wish to attend the luncheon, they must pay in advance. Prices will be announced as details become available.

Reservists are allowed to bring just one supervisor. Only reservists assigned to the aircrew for the orientation flight will be able to fly.



Reservists must fill out the application form that appears on this page and return it to the PA office in Bldg. 1850. Invitations will be sent directly to the employers.

Further information is available from the PA office at (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

Expanded meal schedule available at club, dining facility

In response to the higher operations tempo on base, the Westover Consolidated Club has begun serving three meals a day, seven days a week. The new meal schedule is: breakfast, 6 to 8 a.m., lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner from 5 to 10 p.m.

Midnight meals will be available at the Westover Dining Facility from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Boxed flight meals can be ordered seven days a week through the Services Control Center at Ext.2994, 3523, or 2026.

A services representative is available in Hangar 3 to make arrangements for meals at other hours due to unexpected rescheduling of flights.

June 26 - Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's Social Security Number: _____

Employer's company name/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Lunch for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

March UTA schedule

A UTA March 8-9

B UTA March 22-23



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Robert A. Seitz, Webster, Mass., and 2,502 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.